



[www.mountaincountieswater.com](http://www.mountaincountieswater.com)

# **CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE, 2013 PLENARY**

**October 27, 2011**



# Program Overview

- Mountain Counties Water Resources (MCWRA) Overview
- Water Issue / Regional Challenges
- Beneficial Uses of Water

# Overview of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

- Organized in the 1950's
- Reorganized in 1979 to represent Counties of Origin
- CA Water Plan Update, 2005
- 2009 Board of Directors – Refocused Association
  - Water policy principles
  - Legislative committee
  - Advocacy



# Overview MCWRA

- 40 % of the state's developed water supply originates from Mountain Counties Areas
- 15,758 square miles or 9.9 percent of the State
- 383 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers under Federal and State Law
- Ten major watershed areas – 13,236 square miles
- 17 million acre-feet of natural runoff

Source:CA Water Plan Update, 2009

## MOUNTAIN COUNTIES AREA OF CALIFORNIA



# Source of Your Water Supply

## Watersheds on 10 Major Rivers

- American
- Bear
- Consumnes
- Feather
- Moklelumne
- Merced
- San Joaquin
- Stanslaus
- Tuolumne and Yuba Rivers



American River

# Major Water Issue

## ❖ Delta Crisis

- Delta Stewardship Council
- Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- State Water Resources Board
- CA Water Plan Update, 2013
- North and South Differences





# Regional Challenges

- Senior Water Right Protections
- Local Control
- Redirected Consequences
- Legislation
- Economy
- Sustainability
- Extended Droughts
- Climate Change

# Federal Legislation – HR 1837

## Congressional Hearing

*"What have the upstream water users given up? ... let's ask these other people to give up something..."*

-Tom Birmingham

General Manager, Westlands Water District

*"I'd like to know where the folks in the Sacramento River basin are giving their fair share."*

- Congressman Jim Costa



# Beneficial Uses

- Domestic Purposes
- Hydro Power Generation
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Economy

# Hydro Power

- Placer County Water Agency Owns and Operates
  - 5 Interconnected Hydroelectric Power Plants
  - 2 Major Storage Reservoirs (French Meadows and Hell Hole)
  - 24 Miles of Tunnels
- Project Can Generate
  - 244 Megawatts, Peak Power
  - 1.1 Million Megawatt Hours Annually



Ralston Powerhouse



Oxbow Power Plant

# Agriculture

- ❖ Beneficial Use of Water
- ❖ Improved Water Use Efficiency
- ❖ Support the Regional and State Economy
- ❖ Improved Water Quality in Streams





# The Source: The Journey of Sierra Nevada Water

Beneficial Uses in the Area of Origin



Photo by Dave Carter



Photo by Dave Carter



Photo by Wayne Carroll



Photo by Wayne Carroll



Photo by Julie Holmes





# CA Water Plan Update, 2009

- *“...Our new reality is one in which we must manage a resource characterized by uncertainty and vulnerability due to climate change and changing ecosystem needs.” – Lester Snow*
- *“The strategies outlined in these pages provide the means to manage resources comprehensively; from snowmelt to estuary, from field to tap, and all the uses within the watershed” – Lester Snow*